

Missouri Option Program - Assurance Standards

1.0 Program Eligibility Standards	
1.1	Students enrolled in the Missouri Option Program are exempted from the requirement to earn a specific number of credits for graduation purposes.
1.2	Each Missouri Option Program candidate is enrolled as a full-time student in the district in accordance with the criteria prescribed in Assurance Standards 4.2 and 4.3.
1.3	Student participation in the Missouri Option Program is voluntary and is based on a recommendation by a School Counselor, teacher, and/or administrator.
1.4	Selection criteria for the Missouri Option Program are not ethnic, racial, or gender biased.
1.5	Students are generally between the ages of 17-20 (16 year olds at the discretion of the LEA).
1.6	Students are behind their cohort group in the credits needed to graduate or <i>for other significant reasons identified</i> are unable to complete their diploma with their cohort group (class). Cohort is defined as the year that a student enrolled in kindergarten.
1.7	Participation in the Missouri Option Program requires that 17 year-old or younger students and a parent/guardian sign a consent form. For unaccompanied homeless youths, the requirement presents barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance and success in school and is waived in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act.
1.8	Students served by the Missouri Option Program are expected to be able to read independently in English at the 12th grade level sufficient to successfully complete instruction and testing.
1.9	Students with disabilities show <i>evidence of a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan, which indicates that participation in the Missouri Option Program is appropriate and beneficial for the student.</i> The IEP or Section 504 Plan documents any special education services and related aids and services necessary for successful completion of the program, including the testing component.
1.10	Missouri Option Program participants have access to all educational programs and services available in the school district. For information on the eligibility to participate in high school activities, please contact the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) at email@mshsaa.org or by calling 573-875-4880.
2.0 Program Instructor Standards	
2.1	Missouri Option Program instructor(s) have a valid Missouri teaching certificate in any subject at any grade level, which may include an Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) certification.
3.0 Program Counseling Standards	
3.1	Counselor(s) have a valid Missouri Counseling Certificate.
3.2	Guidance and counseling services are accessible to Missouri Option students consistent with the LEA's high school program.
3.3	Ongoing postsecondary and career advisement is provided by the Missouri Option Program instructor(s) and counselor(s), with supplemental guidance and counseling provided as available.

4.0 Academic Instruction and Assessment Standards	
4.1	Instructional content is appropriate for up to 12 th grade level, aligning with Missouri's High School Equivalency Test sub-tests: Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts Reading and Language Arts Writing.
4.2	Missouri Option students are engaged in a minimum of 15 hours of academic instruction/study per week, which may include computer-assisted and/or virtual instruction.
4.3	Missouri Option students are also enrolled in other school-supervised instructional activities (Career Education courses, elective classes, volunteer experiences, work experience, etc. that lead to the student's classification by the school district as a full-time student.
4.4	As prescribed in Section 170.011, RSMo, to be eligible for graduation from high school in Missouri, students satisfactorily pass a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, as well as the electoral process. Students must pass an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American institutions. All students entering grade 9 after July 1, 2017, are required to pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics.
4.5	Missouri Option students pass half-unit courses in Personal Finance and Health Education as per 5 CSR 20-100.190. Prior to graduation, all high school students must receive 30 minutes of CPR instruction and training in the proper performance of the Heimlich maneuver. Instruction must be included in the district's existing health or physical education curriculum.
4.6	All Missouri Option students participate in appropriate state assessments, including all required End-of-Course (EOC) assessments.
4.7	Students are encouraged, but not required, to enroll in Missouri Connections for exploration of postsecondary and occupational activities.
5.0 Graduation Standards	
5.1	All Missouri Option students take and pass Missouri's High School Equivalency Test as a competency-based assessment for a score report/transcript and complete all of the requirements set forth in these standards to be eligible for a high school diploma.
5.2	Student certificates will reflect a regular high school diploma as awarded to all students by local boards of education. Student transcripts will include a Comprehensive Score Report and/or a <i>Missouri Option Score Report</i> .
5.3	Upon passing Missouri's High School Equivalency Test and fulfilling all Missouri Option and district program requirements, fifth- through seventh-year seniors receive a high school diploma and graduate.
5.4	Students who are in the program for other significant reasons and successfully pass the HiSET® exam before the end of the school year are either engaged in a school-supervised course of study or employment/volunteer work equivalent to full-time student status (± 30 hours a week) until the end of the school year, or may be released according to district policy.
5.5	The Missouri Option Program does not circumvent compulsory attendance regulations or facilitate an early exit. For information regarding conditions for early exit, please see the <u>Graduation Requirements for Students in Missouri Public Schools</u> , page 7 - Number of Semesters of Attendance Required: "Local boards of education may, by policy, permit students who have met all state and local graduation requirements to exit high school earlier than the usual eight semesters."
5.6	Graduates of the Missouri Option Program are eligible to participate in a high school graduation ceremony with their peers.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email civilrights@dese.mo.gov.